

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02152 01 OF 02 230650Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /058 W
-----230703Z 091677 /15

O R 230334Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4359
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6442
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 2152

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : PINT BG
SUBJECT : ZIA'S ADDRESS TO NATION - TEXT

REF : DACCA 2151

1. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF GENERAL ZIA'S
ADDRESS TO THE NATION, APRIL 22:

QUOTE:

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICIENT AND MERCIFUL,
MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN, ASSALAMO ALAIKUM. I HAVE TALKED TO YOU
ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS AND UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES ON
THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS
NATIONAL PROBLEMS. I WISH TO PLACE BEFORE YOU TODAY, AS
PRESIDENT, SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES. BUT BEFORE THAT, I WOULD LIKE
TO EXTEND ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF YOU ALL OUR
SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE FORMER PRESIDENT MR. JUSTICE ABUSADAT
MOHAMMAD SAYEM FOR DISCHARGING HIS ONEROUS RESPONSIBILITY
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DACCA 02152 01 OF 02 230650Z

WITH DEVOTION. I PRAY HIS RETIRED LIFE MAY BE HAPPY AND PEACEFUL.

THE COUNTRY IS TAKING BOLD STRIDES TOWARDS REALISATION OF
THE DREAM OF THE GLORIOUS LIBERATION WAR THROUGH CEASELESS
EFFORTS. I EXTEND MY SINCERE GREETINGS TO MY BRETHREN WHO
ARE INSPIRED BY THE IDEALS OF SWANIRVAR (SELF-RELIANT) BANGLADESH.
I AND MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU--

THIS IS OUR FIRM DETERMINATION.

THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE ARE BEING REESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTRY IN A DEFINITE MANNER. THE ELECTIONS TO THE UNION PARISHADS HAVE BEEN FAIR AND ORDERLY. ALL-OUT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE FOR MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY. THE JOINT EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES, POLICE, BDR, ANSARS, FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND PARTICULARLY THE VILLAGE DEFENCE PARTY AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE LARGELY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT PEACE AND SECURITY IN PUBLIC LIFE AND CURBING THE MENACE OF SMUGGLING. A GENERALLY PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE IS NOW PREVAILING IN ACADEMIC SPHERES AS A RESULT OF COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE TEACHERS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS. THUS OVERCOMING DIFFICULT DAYS, WE HAVE REACHED A CONSTRUCTIVE AND CREATIVE STAGE.

I AND MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVE IN FULL DEMOCRACY AND ARE DETERMINED TO RESTORE GOVERNMENT OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN DUE TIME. THE PEOPLE ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL POWERS AND IT IS OUR GOAL TO REFLECT FULLY THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN EVERY ACTION AND POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE CERTAIN STEPS TO THIS END.

POURASHAVA POOLS

IT IS KNOWN TO ALL THAT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR HAD TO BE POSTPONED DUE TO SOME NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FACTORS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. BUT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WE THINK IT IS REASONABLE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DACCA 02152 01 OF 02 230650Z

ELECTIONS IN PHASES THROUGH OTHER ELECTIONS. HENCE I MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ELECTIONS TO THE POURASHAVAS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST THIS YEAR TO BE FOLLOWED BY ELECTIONS TO THE ZILLA PARISHADS IN DECEMBER. THEREAFTER, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR HOLDING GENERAL ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF ADULT FRANCHISE IN TJTMONTH OF DECEMBER 1978. WE EXPECT PATRIOTIC PEOPLE AND THOSE DEDICATED TO PROMOTE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY WILL COME FORWARD FOR ELECTIONS AT ALL LEVELS TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THE TASK OF DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY. THE ELECTED CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE UNION PARISHADS HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH AND PLAN OF ACTION. I WISH THIS IS KEPT UP.

THERE IS MUCH RESENTMENT AMONG THE PEOPLE AGAINST SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. HENCE NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ARE BEING PROMULGATED TO REFLECT THE ATTITUDE AND HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AND MOBILISE EVERY BODY IN THE TASK OF NATIONBUILDING.

DEAR COUNTRYMEN, SINCE THE GLORIOUS NOVEMBER 7, 1975 THE NATION HAS BEEN ENTRUSTING VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES ON ME ONE AFTER THE OTHER I HAVE TRIED MY BEST TO DISCHARGE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND I HAVE RELIED ON YOUR CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT IN ALL OUR EFFORTS. SOME ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED WHILE SOME OTHERS ARE IN THE OFFING THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW BEEN REPOSED ON ME. INSHA ALLAH, WITH YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF THIS TIME TOO TO THE CAUSE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE NATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, TO ASCERTAIN YOUR CONFIDENCE A COUNTRYWIDE REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD ON THE 30TH OF THE NEXT MONTH ON DIRECT ADULT FRANCHISE. I HOPE YOU WILL HELP BUILD A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY BY EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02152 02 OF 02 230653Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 2152

TRANSFORMATION

THE FUTURE BANGLADESH WILL BE BUILT ON THE BASE OF RURAL BANGLADESH. THE COUNTRY WILL PROGRESS BY UPHOLDING THE PRESTIGE OF THE COMMON MAN AND RENDERING SERVICE TO THEM. WE ARE HEADING TOWARDS THIS TRANSFORMATION, SO THE NATION REPOSES GREAT CONFIDENCE AND PINS HIGH HOPES ON THE UNION PARISHADS. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WILL EMERGE FROM LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND ENSURE THAT THE LINK WITH THE PEOPLE IS NEVER WEAKENED.

IT IS INCUMBENT ON ALL LEADING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO
MOTIVATE THE COMMON MAN FOR UNDERTAKING CONSTRUCTIVE WORK.
I HOPE THEY WILL BEAR IN MIND THAT THEY ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO
ALMIGHTY ALLAH AND COME FORWARD TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE
OVER-ALL NATIONAL INTEREST.

THE NATION HOPES THE POLITICIANS WILL SET CONSTRUCTIVE IDEALS IN THE
SPHERES OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE.
THERE WILL BE NO OBSTACLES ON THE WAY OF PATRIOTIC
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DACCA 02152 02 OF 02 230653Z

AND THE SCOPE FOR OPEN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE WIDENED
IN PHASES.

WE HAVE TO RAISE PRODUCTION IN FIELDS AND FACTORIES, WE HAVE
TO REACH THE TARGETS AND GO BEYOND: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR
LABOUR AND PEASANT BROTHERS IS TREMENDOUS. WE HAVE TO MEET OUR NEEDS
AND WIPE OUT THE POVERTY FROM OUR COUNTRY. WE HAVE TO PUT UP
WITH TEMPORARY HARDSHIP, IF NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF THE
COUNTRY. IF THE COUNTRY PROSPERS ALL WILL BE HAPPY.
IF THERE IS HARDSHIP, WE ALL MUST SHARE.

THIS MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY BOTH BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF IDEALS AND THROUGH WORK.

THERE IS ENOUGH STOCK OF FOOD AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE
COUNTRY AND FURTHER PROCUREMENTS ARE BEING MADE ACCORDING TO
NECESSITY. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS TO SOME EXTENT STABILISED.
THE EXTERNAL TRADE IS EXPANDING IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD
THE RATIONALE OF OUR POLICIES AND DEMAND HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED EVERY-
BODY, UNDER SUCH FAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES MUST DEVOTE HIMSELF IN
THE NATION-BUILDING TASK IN A DISCIPLINED MANNER.
IN THIS TASK THE UNFLINCHING FAITH IN ALLAH WILL GIVE US
COURAGE AND STRENGTH.

FACE THE CHALLENGE

PEACE IN THE COUNTRY MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ANY COST. THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY ATTEMPT OF
SELF SEEKERS TO OBSTRUCT THIS AUSPICIOUS JOURNEY. THEY WILL BE
EVER READY TO FACE THE CHALLENGE.

THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AT THE DEATH AND DEVASTATIONS
CAUSED BY THE RECENT TORNADO AND FLOODS. AT THE SAME TIME THE
ENTIRE NATION CAME OUT WITH SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT AND TOOK UP
THE TASK OF REHABILITATION THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS. THIS
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PAGE 03 DACCA 02152 02 OF 02 230653Z

IS AN EXAMPLE WORTH EMULATING.

I HOPE EACH AND EVERY BANGLADESHI IRRESPECTIVE OF CASTE,
CREED AND CLASS DISTINCTION WILL PLEDGE UNITY AS A NATION AND
COME FORWARD TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
SOVEREIGNTY AND DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE OVER ALL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE COUNTRY. PLEASE ACCEPT MY RESPECTIFUL GREETINGS.
KHODA HAFEZ, BANGLADESH ZINDABAD. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA02152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-1189
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770426/aaaaawfq.tel
Line Count: 236
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27f116a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DACCA 2151
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2714866
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZIAI'S ADDRESS TO NATION - TEXT
TAGS: PINT, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27f116a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009